

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for dyeing fibers or filaments comprising:
a plurality of prewetting troughs;
a plurality of dye baths; and
a drying arrangement; and

characterized in having a supporting system for carrying and dyeing the fiber continuously and homogeneously comprising a fabric roll guided to pass through the pre-wetting troughs, the dye baths and the drying arrangement for carrying the fibers or filaments for dyeing the said fibers or filaments continuously and homogeneously.

2. (currently amended) An apparatus for dyeing fibers or filaments as claimed in claim 1, wherein the supporting system comprises a belt to form the fabric roll for carrying and dyeing the fibers or filaments.

3. (currently amended) An apparatus for dyeing fibers or filaments of claim 2, wherein the belt is a porous belt.

4. (currently amended) An apparatus for dyeing fibers or filaments of claim 1, wherein the supporting system comprises at least two belts to form a fabric roll for carrying and dyeing the fibers or filaments.

5. (currently amended) An apparatus for dyeing fibers or filaments of claim 1 claim 4, wherein cotton fibers or filaments are is carried between porous belts.

6. (currently amended) An apparatus for dyeing fibers or filaments of claim 2, wherein the belt is a synthetic or natural fabric.

7. (previously presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the belt is a blended fabric.

8. (previously presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the supporting system is inert to dyeing.

Claim 9 cancelled.

10. (currently amended) A method for dyeing fibers or filaments comprising:
supporting and carrying the fibers using in a fabric roll of a supporting system;
guiding the supporting system to pass through pre-wetting the fibers along with the supporting system troughs for pre-wetting the fibers or filaments, die baths for dyeing the fibers or filaments and a drying arrangement for drying the fibers or filaments;
~~dyeing the at least one fiber along with the supporting system with a dye; and~~
~~separately drying the fibers or filaments from the supporting system, wherein the supporting system enables drying of fibers or filaments continuously and homogenously.~~

11. (currently amended) A method for dyeing fibers or filaments as claimed in claim 10, wherein the fibers or filaments ~~is-are~~ carried between the supporting systems.

12. (currently amended) A method for dyeing fibers or filaments as claimed in claim 10, wherein the fibers or filaments for dyeing includes the fibers or filaments selected from the group of cotton, other natural fibers, man made fibers, synthetic fibers, filaments and a combination thereof.

13. (currently amended) A method for dyeing fibers or filaments as claimed in claim 10, wherein the fiber is cotton fiber.

14. (currently amended) A method for dyeing fibers or filaments as claimed in claim 13, further comprising the step of preparing a fiber rope for carrying cotton fibers.

15. (currently amended) A method for dyeing fibers or filaments as claimed in claim 10, wherein the dye is selected from the group consisting of indigo, vat dye, reactive dye and the like, or a combination thereof.

16. (currently amended) A method for dyeing fibers or filaments as claimed in claim 10, wherein the at least one fiber or filament is indigo dyed.

Claims 17-21 cancelled.

22. (new) An apparatus for dyeing fibers or filaments of claim 4, wherein the belt is a porous belt.

23. (new) An apparatus for dyeing fibers or filaments of claim 4, wherein the belt is a synthetic or natural fabric.

24. (new) A method for dyeing fibers or filaments as claimed in claim 10 comprising a step of forming a fabric roll from a porous belt or belts.

25. A method for preparing yarn comprising the steps of:

- (a) blending dyed fibers prepared by using the apparatus claimed in **claim 1** with un-dyed or other dyed fibers or filaments; and
- (b) spinning yarn to form mélange yarn.

26. A method for preparing yarn comprising the steps of:

- (a) blending dyed fibers or filaments prepared by the method as claimed in **claim 9** with un-dyed or other dyed fibers or filaments; and
- (b) spinning yarn to form mélange yarn.